Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A system for providing self-installing software components for network service execution, comprising:

a service host system to store network service software for a service and to generate a code bundle comprising the network service software and installation instructions for the network service software; and

a requesting system to communicate with the service host system through a basic communication framework, comprising:

a checking mechanism to receive an installation predicate object comprising code from the service host system to determine availability of the network service software on the service host system and to verify prerequisites against a runtime environment through the service host system by testing hardware and software components of the requesting system;

a helper mechanism to receive the code bundle providing the network service software for the service through the service host system and to install the network service software using the installation instructions; and

a service mechanism to provide a service of equivalent functionality to the service of the service host system to one or more other requesting systems that is independent of the service host system.

2. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a set of standardized method definitions provided through a public interface defined on the network service software.

3. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 2, wherein the standardized method definitions are selected from the group comprising at least one of an availability method, environment verification method, code retrieval method, and an update method.

4. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the network service software is updated through the service host system.

5. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the installation predicate object verifies that the runtime environment satisfies prerequisites necessary to install and execute the network service software.

6. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the installation predicate object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

7. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a helper object defined on the service host system to locate and obtain copies of one or more network service software components necessary to satisfy one or more of the prerequisites.

8. (original) A system according to Claim 7, wherein the helper object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

9. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an update object defined on the service host system to identify, retrieve and install any updates to the network service software.

10. (original) A system according to Claim 9, wherein the update object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

Claim 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (canceled).

13. (original) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the basic communication framework comprises a Java operating environment.

14. (previously presented) A method for providing self-installing software components for network service execution, comprising:

storing network service software for a service on a service host system and generating a code bundle comprising the network service software and installation instructions for the network service software; and

establishing a basic communication framework between the service host system and a requesting system, comprising:

receiving on the requesting system, an installation predicate object comprising code from the service host system to determine availability of the network service software and to verify prerequisites against a runtime environment through the service host system by testing hardware and software components of the requesting system;

receiving on the requesting system, the code bundle providing the network service software for the service through the service host system on the requesting system and installing the network service software using the installation instructions; and

providing by the requesting system, a service of equivalent functionality to the service of the service host system to one or more other requesting systems that is independent of the service host system.

15. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

specifying a set of standardized method definitions provided through a public interface defined on the network service software.

16. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 15, further comprising:

defining the standardized method definitions selected from the group comprising at least one of an availability method, environment verification method, code retrieval method, and an update method.

17. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

updating the network service software through the service host system.

18. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

verifying that the runtime environment satisfies the prerequisites necessary to install and execute the network service software.

19. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the installation predicate object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

20. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

defining a helper object on the service host system to locate and obtain copies of one or more network service software components necessary to satisfy one or more of the prerequisites.

21. (original) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the helper object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

22. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

defining an update object on the service host system to identify, retrieve and install any updates to the network service software.

23. (original) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the update object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

Claim 24 (canceled).

Claim 25 (canceled).

26. (original) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the basic communication framework comprises a Java operating environment.

27. (original) A computer-readable storage medium holding code for performing the method according to Claim 14.

28. (previously presented) An apparatus for providing self-installing software components for network service execution, comprising:

means for storing network service software for a service on a service host system and for generating a code bundle comprising the network service software and installation instructions for the network service software; and

means for establishing a basic communication framework between the service host system and a requesting system, comprising:

means for receiving on the requesting system, an installation predicate object comprising code from the service host system to determine availability of the network service software on the service host system and to verify prerequisites against a runtime environment through the service host system by testing hardware and software components of the requesting system;

means for receiving on the requesting system, the code bundle providing the network service software for the service through the service host system and for installing the network service software using the installation instructions; and

means for providing by the requesting system, a service of equivalent functionality to the service of the service host system to one or more other requesting systems that is independent of the service host system.